



NEWS RELEASE

October 10, 2002

Border Patrol Seizes Marijuana, Stolen Truck and 2 Subjects

TUCSON, Ariz. — Border Patrol Agents seized over 1,000 pounds of marijuana, a stolen pick up truck, and apprehended two male undocumented Mexican National subjects who had illegally entered into the United States in a stolen 1999 Dodge Ram pick up.

Border Patrol Agents from the Naco and Sonoita Stations responded to an illegal entry of a vehicle through the international boundary fence last night at approximately 9:30 PM. The vehicle illegally crossed into the United States in a remote area of the San Rafael Valley and was attempting to circumvent the Border Patrol Checkpoint located on Highway 83. Border Patrol Air Support also responded from the Sierra Vista Border Patrol Air Operations.

The agents encountered a white Dodge Ram pick up near the Empire Cienega Ranch. The agents noticed the pick up truck did not have operational taillights, which is common on vehicles attempting to drive undetected through the remote desert at night. Due to the large amount of dust, the agents could only follow the pick up from a distance. The Border Patrol helicopter was able to lead the agents on the ground to the area where the driver and passenger had abandoned the pick up and fled on foot. The ground agents secured the pick up which was loaded with 35 burlap bundles of marijuana in the cab and bed of the vehicle. The Border Patrol helicopter was able to lead other agents to the two occupants that had fled on foot. Two male subjects were taken into custody. The marijuana was later weighed and totaled over 1,000 pounds and is valued at more than \$800,000.00. Tucson Sector Deputy Chief Ed Pyeatt, stated "This was yet another example of how coordinated air and ground resources can lead to the apprehension of those criminals that attempt to circumvent our forward deployed agents."

The Tucson Sector seized more than 300,000 pounds of marijuana in Fiscal Year 2002. The Sonoita Station was responsible for over 58,000 pounds of that amount.

The two male subjects and marijuana were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for prosecution on drug related charges. Immigration detainer holds were placed on the subjects for deportation proceedings. The stolen pick up was turned over to the Regional Auto Theft Law Enforcement Response Team.

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